

MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 21, 2021
HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM APPLICATION

Commission Members Present: William McFarland, Chair Pro tem, James Kelley, Jr., Richard Shiers, and Edward Kelleher

Commission Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: AAG, Ron Guay, AAG, Henry Jennings, Carol Gauthier, Joy Bonenfant, Jaime Wood, and Dr. Zachary Matzkin

1. **Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:** William McFarland, Chair Pro tem
2. **Old Business**

Final Approval of the 2021 Maine Sire Stakes Schedule. Commission rule CMR 01-017, Chapter 9, Section 1.3 requires that the Commission establish an annual schedule for the Sire Stakes Program. The Commission considered a schedule presented by the Sire Stakes Advisory Committee at its May 7, 2021 meeting and requested some changes. The Commission will now consider final approval of the 2021 schedule.

Commissioner McFarland stated this is a continuance from May 7, 2021 meeting. Henry Jennings stated he asked Steve Wilson to try to make some adjustments to the calendar that was presented last time from the Sire Stakes Advisory Committee. Mr. Wilson made the changes and sent them to Mr. Jennings, and he forwarded them to the Commissioners, and they were posted to the website. There were 2 versions of the calendar. AAG, Guay asked Mr. Wilson when he prepared the calendar for consideration did, he limit the changes to what he understood what the Commissioners had asked for in the amendment. Mr. Wilson stated he did a handful of them, but he did not extend the season like it was asked because he didn't have time to make a whole new schedule. He feels as though he did as most others required. AAG, Guay stated he wanted to be clear that he had heard the specific from the four Commissioners. Mr. Wilson stated yes. Commissioner Shiers stated he believes they should have a motion to reopen the hearing. Commissioner McFarland stated yes. Commissioner Shiers made that motion. Commissioner Kelley seconded. AAG, Guay stated it is not a hearing under Title 5. Commissioner McFarland stated it's been moved and seconded. Vote 4-0. Commissioner Kelley stated that Mr. Wilson did a great job and granted there was a couple of things he didn't address but he did a couple of changes that they didn't ask for. Mr. Wilson stated the week of Northern Maine that is canceled there are some tentative dates that First Tracks would take if Bangor is a no go and he can pencil those changes in right now. Mr. Jennings asked Mr. Wilson to give an overview of the changes he made. Mr. Wilson stated the 3rd week of August he separated the trotters in Skowhegan. He put the 2 year old trotters to race on Tuesday and 3 year old trotters on Wednesday. He separated at Fryeburg the 3 year olds on Friday and Saturday. On July 21st, the 3 year old fillies he moved those around to race on the 24th of July. Michael Hopkins stated they are going to hold a fair at Bangor on August 5th so they would be able to pick up dates up until August 5th. He was looking at Wednesday the 28th and Sunday, August 1st as a possible race date to pick up a couple of these dates from Northern Maine Fair. Mr. Jennings stated that First Tracks has the 28th. As he understands it, they are more than willing to work with Bangor. After further discussion, Commissioner Kelleher made a motion to approve the 2021 Sire Stakes schedule. Commissioner Shiers seconded. AAG, Guay called the roll call vote.

RECORD OF ROLL CALL VOTE

On May 7, 2021 the Commission considered a schedule for 2021 Sires Stakes races. After extensive public comment, and Commission deliberation, the Commission tabled the proposed calendar and directed certain changes to be made. After that meeting the cancellation of the Northern Maine Fair was confirmed.

On May 21, 2021, the Commission met to consider the proposed amendments to the tabled schedule and to reallocate the Sires Stake dates originally awarded to Northern Maine Fair.

Upon further deliberation the Commission reviewed amendments to the tabled schedule and adopted the changes reflected in exhibit 1.

Motion:

APPROVE The 2021 Sires Stakes race schedule marked as Exhibit 1.

Commissioners:

William McFarland: YEA

Richard Shiers: YEA

James Kelley, Jr. YEA

Edward Kelleher YEA

Date: 5/21/21

3. Adjourn

**Commissioner Shiers moved to adjourn. Commissioner Kelley seconded.
10:48 a.m.**